Gingrich Lambastes Coverage Of School Lunch Controversy

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Associated Press

NEW YORK, March 24—House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) accused the media today of engaging in "despicable demagoguery" and depicting Republicans as taking food out of the mouths of schoolchildren.

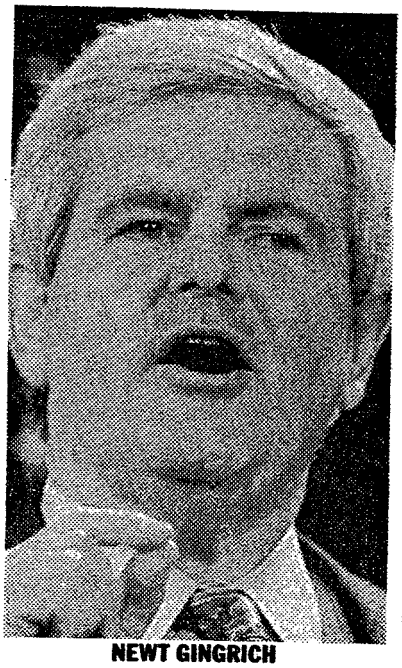
The Washington press corps, lobbyists and liberals have been "shamelessly lying and exploiting children" to save bureaucrats' jobs, Gingrich told more than 1,000 New York City government, business and civic leaders.

"It is shameful when the major newspapers of this country repeat routinely the lies of liberals who are saving the bureaucrats by using the children," he said.

The GOP leader said Congress is increasing the school lunch program by 4.5 percent and increasing aid to women and children above Clinton administration projections.

Ten protesters were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct at the hotel where Gingrich spoke. Six also were accused of resisting arrest when they tried to chain themselves up inside the hotel, police said.

Hundreds of AIDS activists and social welfare advocates chanted and carried signs outside denouncing Gingrich for budget cuts they said threatened the nation's health.



NEWT GINGRICH

. . . cites media's "demagoguery"